United Nations A/BUR/54/SR.5

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
5 September 2000
English
Original: Spanish

General Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 15 May 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Moral (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Seychelles)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Zimbabwe (A/54/238)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request by Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Zimbabwe for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects", contained in document A/54/238. The representative of Ukraine had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Yel'chenko** (Ukraine) said that HIV/AIDS was an epidemic of global proportions with enormous human and social ramifications that went far beyond the province of health; as such, it constituted a threat to stability, exacerbated inequality and undermined sustainable development. In the light of the fact that 95 per cent of all HIV-infected persons lived in developing countries, decades of progress could be reversed, and the impact would be felt in all sectors, including trade, economic development, health care, education, employment, human rights and peace and security. Facing that challenge would require comprehensive, multisectoral responses involving a broad range of actors.

4. The increased attention to the problem at various levels had begun to have positive results; the decision taken recently by a number of pharmaceutical companies, following the appeal from the Secretary-General, to lower the price of AIDS drugs in States affected by the disease was encouraging. He also welcomed the decision taken by the Government of the United States of America to make the procurement of cheaper drugs and technology more accessible. His delegation hoped that other countries would follow that example.

5. Nevertheless, the problem of HIV/AIDS could be overcome only through the concerted and coordinated efforts of the international community. The time had come for the United Nations to elaborate a comprehensive agenda for action against the pandemic and for the General Assembly to play a leading role in that endeavour. The Security Council had already recommended to the General Assembly that it should review the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects and consider the possibility of proposing new strategies, methods, activities and measures to strengthen international cooperation in the matter.

6. The most appropriate forum for that purpose would be a special session of the General Assembly, lasting two or three days, which could, as set out in the draft resolution annexed to the request, be held in May 2001. His delegation urged the Committee to support that initiative and to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be included in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session.

7. **Mr. Apata** (Nigeria) supported the Ukrainian proposal and said that his country had joined the list of sponsors.

8. *Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine) withdrew.*

9. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be included in the agenda, and that it should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

10. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.